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PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No.: 11502/15:1 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
Blatter et al.)
Serial No.: 09/736,937) Art Unit
Filed: December 14, 2000) 3731
For: LOCKING COMPRESSION PLATE APPARATUS)
Examiner: Paul A. Roberts)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

BOX: RESPONSE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed February 10, 2003, Applicant hereby respectfully traverses the requirement and provisionally elects Roman numeral group I and Arabic letter group A. Applicant also hereby respectfully traverses the Examiner's statement that none of the pending claims is generic. Applicant believes that at least each of the pending independent claims 1, 18, and 29 is generic to each of the species defined by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant requests that, upon the allowance of a generic claim, the Examiner reconsider and allow the claims directed to the nonelected species.

Applicant also submits that each of the following claims is generic and/or reads on the provisionally elected Group I with Group A: 1-7, 10-13, 15-16, 18-27, 29-36. Claims 8, 9, 14, 17, 28, and 37 are withdrawn from consideration, but subject to reinstatement upon the allowance of a claim generic to the identified species.

In the event the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the foregoing election which could be resolved through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to initiate a telephone conversation with the undersigned.

DATED this 27TH day of MARCH 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE